



LESSON—SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1907.

Moses Pleading With Israel.

Deut. 6: 1-15. Memory verses, 4-7. Read Deut. v., vi.

Golden Text.

Beware lest thou forget the Lord.—Deut. 6: 12.

Home Readings.

Monday, Sept. 9.—Deut. iv., 1-24.
 Tuesday, Sept. 10.—Deut. iv., 25-49.
 Wednesday, Sept. 11.—Deut. v., 1-21.
 Thursday, Sept. 12.—Deut. v., 22-33.
 Friday, Sept. 13.—Deut. vi., 1-25.
 Saturday, Sept. 14.—Deut. vii., 1-26.
 Sunday, Sept. 15.—Deut. viii., 1-20.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

Did you ever hear about the poor little boy who had a hole in his memory? First of all it was only the little things that were apt to drop through, as a nail might through a small hole in your pocket, but by-and-bye as things kept dropping through they kept making the hole bigger and bigger until almost the only words the poor boy could say were 'Oh! I forgot.' He was a great trouble to people, but they were very sorry for him, too, because as they said 'he'll never be able to get on in the world with a terrible hole in his memory like that.' Let us say the golden text over together, it is only six words—'Beware lest thou forget the Lord.' What word in this golden text do you suppose made me think of the story I was just telling you? Yes, the word 'forget.' It was Moses who said these words to the Israelites. Poor Moses, he had led these people for a great many years and he knew that he was going to leave them soon. He had tried to teach them about God, but now he was afraid they would forget. What is the first word in our text? 'Beware!' That is a word of what we call warning—a word that shows there is danger ahead. Perhaps there is an angry bull in a field and the farmer who owns him puts up a notice—'Beware of the bull!' You would be very silly to try to cross that field, and take no notice of the warning, wouldn't you? Moses, however, was afraid of a much worse danger than merely death. We have been learning for a long while about the wonderful things God had done for the Israelites, yet here was Moses afraid that they would forget God.

Try to bring home to the children that although God has done far more for us than even for the Israelites, yet we are constantly liable to forget God.

FOR THE JUNIORS.

The chapters in which Moses rehearses the life of Israel in the wilderness and evens up the reasons they have to remember God's goodness and mercy are of the greatest interest and reveal the aged leader as full of tender yearning over the people he is about to relinquish to another's leadership. Above even this, however, there shines his zeal for God. His denunciations of those who forsake him are pitiless. His realization of God at such an early stage of divine revelation is marvellous. His urgency that the people should talk of the law at all times and keep the words not only in their hearts, but in constant sight, would not be out of place today. It is so easy to say, 'Oh, it is not consistent with our national and proper reserve that we should talk of sacred things,' but 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth

speaketh,' and it will be natural to us to speak of that which most fills our thoughts. If we never speak of God and holy things, the world has a right to judge that we never think of such. The rigidity with which the later Jews stuck to the letter of the law called from Christ some of His sternest rebukes (Matt. 23: 5, 23. Luke 11: 3, 9). The binding of God's word on forehead and arm was taken literally and assumed to have a virtue in itself. It is, however, now as ever, that it is the spirit of our actions that matters. 'God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.'

SELECTIONS.

Verse 13. Thou shalt serve Him. 'Two gospels lie side by side in the New Testament. There is the gospel of being helped and the gospel of being helpful. . . . Beside the parable of the Prodigal Son stands the parable of the Good Samaritan. Beside the blessed invitations stand the Beatitudes on service. We have only half the joy and blessing if we stop short after hearing the first glad word. We have the full message when we hear the lips that whispered 'Come unto me,' saying also, 'Go ye into all the world.'—'Sunday School Times.'

Verse 9. Write them upon the posts of thy house. This is the origin of the Jewish Mezuzah, the name given to the square piece of parchment, inscribed with Deut. vi., 4-9 and xi., 13-21, which is rolled up in a small cylinder of wood or metal, and affixed to the right-hand post of every door in a Jewish house. The pious Jew touches the Mezuzah on each occasion of passing, or kisses his finger, and says in Hebrew Psalm cxxi.: 8, 'The Lord shall preserve thy going out,' etc.—Cook. The name of God is always seen on the outside through an opening, or through the glass case.—Peloubet's Notes.

It is true, as Herbert Spencer says, that education alone, especially secular education, 'creeds pasted on the memory, good principles learned by rote, lessons in right and wrong will not eradicate vicious propensities. . . . All history, both of the race and the individual, goes to prove that in a majority of cases precepts do not act at all. . . . But if you make virtue loved and vice loathed, if you arouse a noble desire, if you bring into life a previously dormant sentiment, . . . if, in short, you produce a state of mind to which proper behavior is natural, spontaneous, instinctive, you do some good.'

I don't think Satan cares what we worship, so long as we don't worship God.—Moody.

No one knows how much good he can do simply by professing his faith before men: of course, having is more important than professing, but what is the good of having a flag if you keep it always up in your closet?—'Sunday-school Times.'

BIBLE REFERENCES.

Deut. iv., 7-9, 29-31, 39; viii., 2, 3; xxx., 19, 20; Psa. cxix., 16; xxxvi., 11; John xiv., 15; Heb. ii., 1; Deut. v., 29.

C. E. Topic.

GOD'S OMNISCIENCE.

Sunday, Sept. 15.—Topic—God's omniscience. Isa. xl., 12-31.

Junior C. E. Topic.

SHOW YOUR COLORS.

Monday, Sept. 9.—Daniel exalted. Dan. vi., 1-3.

Tuesday, Sept. 10.—Daniel envied. Dan. vi., 4-9.

Wednesday, Sept. 11.—David's custom and Daniel's. Ps. lv., 17.

Thursday, Sept. 12.—God on Daniel's side. Ps. cxviii., 6.

Friday, Sept. 13.—How Moses showed his colors. Heb. xi., 24-27.

Saturday, Sept. 14.—Be not afraid. Luke xii., 4.

Sunday, Sept. 15.—Topic.—How Daniel showed his colors. Dan. vi., 10, 11.

THE IDEAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

There was once a state governor who was accustomed, when signing his name in unofficial correspondence, to put after it, 'S. S. Teacher.' When asked why he did so, as most men would wish to call attention to their most important office, he replied: 'I consider no office on earth more important than that of a Sunday school teacher!' This man certainly realized, as every Sunday school teacher ought to realize, the great importance of his position. I have, times not a few, thrown out in small public meetings the question, 'What influence more than others led you to accept Christ?' Two influences have always headed the list—that of 'Christian parents' and 'Sunday school teachers.' The boys and girls of to-day will doubtless bear testimony along the same line in years to come.

My own memory goes back of the years, and the face of a genial, kindly, warm-hearted Christian man comes once more before me—my old Sunday school teacher. It is sometimes said of some ministers that they are 'better pastors than preachers.' This man was not an ideal teacher, but he was a splendid shepherd. The good shepherd knows his sheep, and my old Sunday school teacher knew his boys. He had a better acquaintance with us, and we with him, than one hour a week in the class could possibly have given. He visited at our homes. Our parents knew him. It we were absent, even for a few weeks, he was sure to look us up. He used to have occasional class gatherings at his home, which we boys greatly enjoyed. 'Must have had lots of time!' No, he was a busy business man—a produce merchant—he took the time! Outside the class we boys used sometimes to hear him spoken of as a man without reproach in his business life, and we learned to believe in him. He was interested in the salvation of every member of the class. He aimed at nothing short of conversion. Sought to accomplish his aim by prayer, practical application of the lesson and personal talks. He never gave up. The result was that one after another the boys were won to Christ. One or two of them, at least, became ministers of the gospel. I have come to believe that the most important factor in Sunday school work is the Sunday school teacher.

The question is often asked: 'How can I get a hold upon those girls, those boys?' Plans are important, but the all-important thing is to have a genuine interest in the class. Let the class get a mighty hold upon the heart of the teacher, and the teacher will soon have a hold upon the class. 'Can I have a little corner in the gallery?' This question was put to the superintendent by an earnest young Christian girl of my acquaintance in Milwaukee some years ago. 'Certainly!' The next Sunday she came with one or two girls whom she had herself hunted up. So on, one by one, and Sunday after Sunday, until it took a big corner in the gallery to hold them.

'And the teachers shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.' I wonder if the governor was not right when he said, 'I consider no office on earth more important than that of a Sunday school teacher!'—E. O. Smith, in the 'Standard.'

A Little More Than Necessary.

Going a little farther than one needs to—in the right direction—is the only way to make progress. Not to do better than is expected of us is to become mediocre. A New England railroad president gave the solid advice: 'Let every man in public or private business, whether he is working for himself or for another, a little more than fill the position he occupies. When he does that, and has established the fact that he can a little more than fill that he will go onward and upward until he finally reaches the highest step in his profession or calling.' Character-building and spiritual growth demand the same rule. It is God's way toward us: 'Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over.'